

1997-2002 KY Plan and Partnership Agreement

At its June 16 meeting the Committee on Equal Opportunities reviewed the status of the partnership with the OCR, received reports from institutions regarding their implementation of the Kentucky Plan and Partnership Agreement, and began planning campus visits in fall 2003.

The Committee on Equal Opportunities met June 16. The Council staff reported that the Commonwealth has not received formal notice of its status regarding the partnership with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. The OCR staff indicated that a report has been delivered to their Washington, D. C., office for review, comment, and sign-off but the review and comment process is not yet complete. A final determination of Kentucky's status was due by March 31, 2003. Because all of the commitments in the agreement have not been completed, it is possible that the Office for Civil Rights may choose to extend the partnership.

Partnership commitments not yet completed: The commitments not yet completed are: a) the renovation of KSU's Hathaway Hall classroom and office building; b) the renovation of KSU's Young Hall dormitory; c) KSU's assurance to substantially narrow the gap between the performance rate of its students on the PRAXIS II as compared to the Kentucky statewide performance average; and d) UofL's Pathways Program.

Action by the Committee:

The CEO forwarded a recommendation to the Council asking that terms of appointment be established for its members. The terms suggested are citizen members four years, Council members one year or until replaced, and legislative member one year or term of office. The CEO has existed 16 years. The committee is asking the Council to formally establish a pattern of appointments that is similar to other statewide boards and commissions. The other boards and commissions generally have staggered appointments over multiple years to ensure continuity and institutional memory. Following action by the Council and appointments by the CPE chair, CEO members have agreed to draw straws to determine the staggering of term. (See agenda item on page 95.)

Reports to the Committee:

The Council and the KSU Board of Regents at a joint meeting April 25, 2003, adopted the final report of the KSU Comprehensive Assessment. The Council staff and KSU staff have met several times since the adoption of the report to discuss the implementation of its recommendations. A copy of the report was mailed to Council members in April.

KSU presented information that showed progress toward improvements in the teacher education program. The results of the most recent administration of the PRAXIS exam will not be available until late fall 2003.

UofL presented information that showed progress toward increasing the number of African Americans admitted to its teacher education program.

Dr. J. John Harris, III, chair of the UK President's Commission on Diversity, discussed the activities of the commission. The commission meets monthly to discuss various initiatives, develop recommendations, and review university policies and practices pertaining to diversity throughout the institution. The commissioners serve as advisors and liaisons to the university community on all issues of diversity.

The committee heard reports about program implementations, student support services, and campus environment from institutional equal opportunity representatives.

Equal Educational Opportunity Activities:

The third statewide conference for participants of the Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program was held June 11-12, 2003, at Eastern Kentucky University. Two hundred students attended.

The 16TH Annual Academically Proficient African American High School Junior and Senior Conference was held June 20-21, 2003, and was hosted by Transylvania University. Approximately 300 students, parents, and college representatives from across the Commonwealth attended.

The CEO will complete two campus visits during fall 2003. The visits will be scheduled after the new CEO chair and other members are appointed by the Council chair.

The Committee on Equal Opportunities is scheduled to meet (if needed) Monday, August 18, 2003, in Meeting Room A at the Council office.